



SUGAR HOUSE P A R K

Sugar House Park Authority

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Sugar House Park Authority | August, 2026, MINUTES

Date/Time: Thursday, June 11, 2026, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Location: Online

Attendees	Anchor Location
Board Members Present: Roxanne Christensen (President), Richard Layman, Siavash Ghaffari, Shehan Jaro, Jacqueline Rosen, Patrick Leary, Kim Shelley, Maxwell Stocking, Eric Forbush Board Members Absent: None Staff Present: Chris Otto, Jeniffer Goodman, Diane Booth Public Present:	Sugar House Garden Center 1602 E. 2100 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84106 If you have questions or require additional assistance, please contact Jeniffer Goodman at (385) 468-1800.

Agendas, recordings, and meeting minutes can be accessed on the Utah Public Notice site at utah.gov/pmn/.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Roxanne Christensen at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment

President Roxanne Christensen opened the floor for public comments.

No public Comment made.

Approval of Special Events

Event Approvals Table

Name/Organization/Event	Pavilion(s) or Field(s)	Document Reference	Reservation Date(s)	Board Decision
Holladay YSA Stake 5K	Big Field/Loop Road	Portfolio 1	10/10/2026	Motion: Richard Layman Second: Siavash Ghaffari Approved unanimously.
2026 Beehive Invitational/ Westminster University Athletics	Big Field	Portfolio 2	9/10/2026	Motion: Jacqueline Rosen Second: Richard Layman Approved Unanimously
*SLCo Corporate Games 5K	Big Field/Loop Road	Portfolio 3	8/29/2026	Motion: Siavash Ghaffari Second: Jacqueline Rosen Approved unanimously.
*U of U Anesthesiology	Big Field	Portfolio 4	9/12/2026	Motion: Siavash Ghaffari Second: Jacqueline Rosen Approved Unanimously
*Girls on the Run Spring 2027	Entire Park	Portfolio 5	5/22/2026	Motion: Siavash Ghaffari Second: Jacqueline Rosen Approved Unanimously

ZAP Recreation Bond

A proposed \$100 million recreation bond will appear on the November ballot.

Three funding categories:

- Capital maintenance
- Completing unfinished park projects
- New applications

Sugar House Park Authority's application was deemed ineligible due to legal/ownership issues identified by the District Attorney's office.

Attorneys from both Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City are researching:

- Ownership history
- Trust splits
- Legal remedies
- Future eligibility

Board Discussion & Concerns

Board members expressed concerns:

- Repeated situations where SHPA was encouraged to apply for funding and later deemed ineligible
- Conflicting or inconsistent explanations for why applications were disqualified
- Need for clarity on funding pathways, timelines, and legal standing
- Concern that accelerated application timelines reduce SHPA competitiveness
- Desire to understand whether operations funding from TRCC should legally disqualify capital funding requests
- Need for timely legal determination so SHPA can prepare competitive TRCC applications

Chris Otto confirmed:

- Legal clarifications are already underway
- Both TRCC and ZAP eligibility questions will be forwarded to legal counsel for review
- The intent is to provide SHPA a clear timeline and resolution path

Jurisdiction & Enforcement Clarification

Board raised ongoing confusion over police, civil enforcement, and traffic control jurisdiction within Sugar House Park.

Key Points:

- Emergency response (fire, police) IS under Salt Lake City jurisdiction.
- Civil enforcement is complicated due to Sugar House Park's nonprofit ownership structure, which does not appear in City or County recorder property rolls.
- Issues raised include:
 - Speed trailer deployment
 - MySLC app routing reports incorrectly
 - Unclear authority for civil enforcement

Duck Pond / Water Management Update

Chris Otto provided an operational update based on recent drought-related issues and public concerns.

Current Issue

- High heat and drought are causing ongoing water quality and wildlife mortality challenges.
- County staff have increased carcass removal and equipment deployment.

Short-Term Action Plan:

- Drain pond significantly using high-capacity pumps
- Pump water from the culvert low area into the creek
- Supported by Salt Lake Public Utilities and Flood Control
- Anticipated duration: 6–8 weeks
- Daily monitoring by animal control and county staff

Flood Control informed the board:

- The current basin does not serve water quality, recreation, or drinking-water purposes.
- Evaporation represents avoidable water loss during megadrought.

- Federal funding for Great Salt Lake restoration may allow transforming the pond into a natural creek corridor, eliminating permanent water storage.
- This would require:
 - Removal of existing concrete pond structures
 - Significant public engagement
 - Coordination between SHPA, Public Utilities, Flood Control, County & City

Funding, Matching Obligations & Budget Cycles

- County and City operate on different budget cycles, often creating delays or misalignment in capital project funding.
- Matching obligations between City and County are 50/50, but only when funds are available; neither entity is required to match immediately if funding isn't present.
- Funds previously allocated by one party may sit unused until the partner can match, sometimes up to 12–18 months.
- City Council holds budget authority and can reallocate funds if the County doesn't match in time.

Culinary Waterline Project Discussion

- Current projected cost is ~\$4.5M, with both City and County contributing \$1M each; still short of total needed due to inflation.
- Consultant is evaluating phasing options, though fire hydrant and utilities requirements may necessitate full-system replacement.
- Potential funding sources discussed:
 - congressional earmarks,
 - federal programs,
 - public utilities grants,
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund.
- Concern raised about what happens if the waterline fails before replacement—County would rely on emergency exchange funds.

Park Prioritization & Service Needs

- Board members emphasized Sugar House Park's unique year-round usage, high visitation, and urban location, arguing it requires a different level of service than other county parks.
- County is exploring geofencing technology to better measure visitation and inform future funding.
- County manages 42 parks and must balance capital budgeting across the entire system.

Operations & Maintenance (Contract (Expires 2027))

- Current O&M contract is outdated and difficult for both City and County to follow; upcoming renegotiation is needed.
- City requests to be formally included in upcoming discussions since they pay half of O&M costs.
- County generally increases O&M funding 3% annually as an inflation assumption; this percentage is not based on actual needs.
- Board would like to determine the true cost of park operations using historical records.

Approval of Minutes – Roxanne Christensen

June 2026 minutes

Motion: Siavash Ghaffari

Second: Maxwell Stocking

Roxanne Christensen – yes

Shehan Jaro – yes

Jacqueline Rosen – yes

Maxwell Stocking - yes

Patrick Leary – yes

Richard Layman - abstain

Kim Shelley – abstain

July 2026 Minutes

Motion: Richard Layman

Second: Siavash Ghaffari

Roxanne Christensen – yes

Jacqueline Rosen – yes

Shehan Jaro – yes

Siavash Ghaffari – yes

Richard Layman - yes

Maxwell Stocking - yes

Eric Forbush - abstain

Patrick Leary – abstain

Financial Report- Shehan Jaro

May:

- Net revenue: +\$388,000 due to large invoicing and capital contributions.
- Expenses mainly legal and accounting fees.
- Cash balance: \$208,000 (operating) + PTIF reserves ~\$740,000.

June:

- Net loss: -\$1,500.
- Security reduced from twice weekly to once weekly, reducing costs.
- Cash balance grew to \$330,000 due to invoice collections.

July (preliminary):

- Very limited revenue posted so far; awaiting final accounting.
- Audit expenses increased (~\$7,000 to Square & Co).
- Cash balance ~\$338,000.

Reservation revenue for July appears low (~\$1,540), partly because summer camps block rental availability and pay earlier in the year.

Financial Report - Shehan Jaro
May & June Final Financials

Motion: Jacqueline Rosen

Second: Eric Forbush

All Approve

Motion to Adjourn:

Jackie Rosen

All Approve

Meeting Adjourned